Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) A method for the manufacture of solutions of biodegradable aliphatic polyester amides, wherein the aliphatic polyester amide is added to a solvent mixture containing

A) a C1-C4 alcohol; and

B) a C1-C6 ketone, and[/or] optionally

C) an aromatic carboxylic acid or a salt thereof.

3. (Twice Amended) The method as defined in [one of claims 1] claim 1, wherein acetone and/or methyl ethyl ketone are used as the ketone.

4. (Twice Amended) The method as defined claim 1, wherein the aromatic carboxylic acid is present in said mixture, said aromatic carboxylic acid being benzoic acid.

5. (Twice Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the polyester amide is a copolymer based on aliphatic monomers and has a melting point of at least [75°C,] 75°C and the weight proportion of the ester structure is between 30 and 70%, and the proportion of the amide structure is between 70 and 30%.

7. (Twice Amended) The method as defined in claim 1 [characterized by] comprising the following steps:

a) the polyester amide is placed in a vessel;

b) the solvent mixture is added to the vessel until the polyester amide is covered by the solvent mixture;

c) the vessel is sealed and the polyester amide and solvent mixture are allowed to stand until the polyester amide has swollen and softened;

d) the softened and swollen polyester amide is mechanically comminuted and the resulting emulsion is [preferably] filtered.

8. (Amended) The method as defined in Claim 7, wherein the swelling [operation takes place] of said polyester amide in step c) is performed under vacuum.

Please add the following new claims:

--18. A method of making a film from a biodegradable aliphatic polyester amide comprising; forming a solution by adding said aliphatic polyester amide to a solvent mixture containing:

a) a C1-C4 alcohol; and

b) a C1-C6 ketone; and optionally

c) an aromatic carboxylic acid or a salt thereof, and subsequently casting said solution into a film.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein a filler is further added to said solution.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said filler is compost, peat, garden mold, or CaSo4.

21. A method of coating a substrate comprising, applying to said substrate a solution of a biodegradable aliphatic polyester amide in a solvent mixture, wherein said solvent mixture comprises:

a) a C1-C4 alcohol; and

b) a C1-C6 ketone; and optionally

c) an aromatic carboxylic acid or a salt thereof.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said substrate is metal, glass, paper, wood, plastic, ceramic or food stuff.

23. A method of joining one substrate to a second substrate comprising; applying to one or both of said substrates a solution of aliphatic polyester amide in a solvent mixture, said solvent mixture containing:

a) a C1-C4 alcohol; and

b) a C1-C6 ketone; and optionally

c) an aromatic carboxylic acid or a salt thereof;

subsequently pressing said substrates together such that said solution is between said substrates, and allowing said solvent mixture to evaporate.--

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The present invention is directed to a novel solvent mixture for use in dissolving an aliphatic polyester amide. The polyester amide is advantageously biodegradable, but until this invention, it has been very difficult to form such biodegradable polymer into a shaped object or to apply the polymer as a coating from solution. The present invention is based on a novel solvent mixture, which can readily dissolve the polymer and render this biodegradable polymer useful in a variety of applications. The novel solvent mixture is disclosed at page 2 of the specification and comprises a mixture of a C1-C4 alcohol and a C1-C6 ketone. Optionally, an aromatic carboxylic acid or salt thereof can be added. Once dissolved, the polymer can be used to make films, see page 5, lines 17-21, to coat a variety of substrates, page 5,